



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/615,876	03/14/1996	TAKASHI OYA	1232-4253	2793

7590 05/21/2002

MORGAN & FINNEGAN
345 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10154

EXAMINER

SRIVASTAVA, VIVEK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	AB

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 08/615,876	Applicant(s) Takashi Oya et al
	Examiner Vivek Srivastava	Art Unit 2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 28, 2002
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 3-7, 16, 18, 20-23, 25, 27-31, 35-47, and 51-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 22, 23, 41, 42, 57, 59-64, and 69-72 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 3, 5, 7, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 35-40, 43, 45, 47, 51-56, 58, is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4, 6, 28, 30, 44, and 46 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 3, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 35 - 40, 43, 51 - 56, 65 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Griesshaber et al.

Considering claims 3, 27, and 43 Griesshaber discloses a camera control system comprising an computer readable medium having computer usable program code containing instructions for the obtaining camera status concerning initial parameters of a predetermined camera (col 2 lines 3 - 41, col 3 line 38 - col 6 line 50, camera status is determined by obtaining means, predetermined camera met by camera numbers and status in fig 5 and 6), in accordance with starting up the monitoring terminal and for obtaining information concerning parameters whose condition changes except for unchanging parameters of the initial parameters of the camera subsequent to the initial startup (fig 5 and fig 6 initial startup or “turning on the system” displays status of the cameras and status changes after initial startup if the camera is being used and for

Art Unit: 2711

cameras whose status is not changed after startup is met by cameras 1, 5, 7 and 8) camera status display device (fig 5, col 7 lines 13 - 61).

Considering claims 16, 35, and 51 Griesshaber discloses a computer readable usable program code for displaying a camera symbol on a display device representing a predetermined camera over a layout on the basis of parameters, said predetermined camera with the camera symbol (fig 5, predetermined camera is met by camera 4 in fig 5, camera symbol met by camera number).

Considering claims 18, 38, and 54 Griesshaber discloses a computer readable program code which causes a camera-status display means to display a status of connection of the camera apparatus and the network (fig 5, cameras 1 - 8 are connected to the network).

Considering claims 20, 37, and 53 Griesshaber discloses a terminal comprising an image display device for displaying the image picked up by a predetermined camera on the same screen simultaneously as the screen on which the status of the predetermined camera is displayed (fig 5, col 2 lines 38 - 41).

Considering claims 21, 39, and 55 Griesshaber discloses a terminal with a computer usable program code wherein camera-status display means further displays on a display device the starting and ending of operation of the predetermined (col 3 line 38 - col 6 line 50 and col 7 lines 13 - 61, indicates progress of auto setup usage).

Art Unit: 2711

Considering claims 25, 36 and 52 Griesshaber discloses obtaining device periodically obtains information concerning parameters of predetermined camera whose condition changes subsequent to the initial startup (fig 5, fig 6).

Considering claims 40 and 56 Griesshaber discloses a computer usable program code wherein obtaining means periodically obtains information concerning parameters of predetermined camera whose condition changes after predetermined camera is started up (col 3 line 38 - col 6 line 50).

Regarding claims 65 and 67, see rejected claims 3, 27 and 43.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 5, 7 - 10, 16, 25, 27, 29, 31 - 36, 43, 45, 47 - 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griesshaber et al.

Art Unit: 2711

Considering claims 5, 29 and 45 Griesshaber fails to disclose a computer usable program code which causes a computer to perform the step of displaying on a display device a pan angle by a direction of a camera control symbol.

The Examiner Takes Official Notice it would have been well known in the art to display a pan angle to provide a viewer with important information with respect to what angle the camera is covering. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Griesshaber to include the claimed pan angle to provide a user with vital camera information.

Considering claims 66 and 68, Griesshaber discloses wherein the initial parameters include at least one of a position and an attitude of camera.

The Examiner Takes Official Notice it would have been well known in the art to display positional information like a pan angle to provide a viewer with important information with respect to the position the camera is in. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Griesshaber to include displaying position information to provide a user with vital camera information.

Regarding claims 7, 31 and 47 Griesshaber fails to disclose a display device for displaying if a predetermined camera is unavailable a symbol of the predetermined camera so as to indicate responseless status.

Art Unit: 2711

Griesshaber discloses in fig 6, cameras 2, 3, and 6 have been properly setup and camera 4 can be used although an error has been detected, and cameras 1, 5, 7, and 8 have not been setup. The Examiner Takes Official Notice it would have been well known in the art to display a message to a user that a camera cannot be used or is not available if not been properly setup to prevent an error or poor recording. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Griesshaber to include displaying on the display device the claimed available or unavailable status to prevent an error or poor quality recording and to indicate to a user the camera is not responding.

Response to Arguments

The Applicant argues that both Griesshaber et al (4,507,683) and Hogan (5,657,246) fail to disclose obtaining information concerning initial parameters of a predetermined camera in accordance with starting up the monitoring terminal and obtaining information concerning parameters whose condition changes except for unchanging parameters of the initial parameters of the camera subsequent to the initial startup as claimed in independent claims 3, 27 and 43 nor informing the monitoring terminal of information concerning parameters whose condition changes except for unchanging parameters of the initial parameters of the camera subsequent to the initial startup as claimed in amended independent claims 65 and 67.

Art Unit: 2711

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's arguments. Regarding Griesshaber, fig 5 and fig 6 depict the status of a plurality of cameras. After starting up the terminal, status of cameras 1, 5, 7 and 8 do not change, in other words, the status of cameras 1, 5, 7, and 8 are unchanging after startup. As a result, the Examiner respectfully submits that Griesshaber discloses this broad limitation. The Examiner concurs that Hogan fails to disclose the claims as amended, and as a result, the rejection of the claims under Hogan are hereby withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 22, 23, 41, 42, 57, 58, 59 - 64 and 69 - 72 are allowed.

6. Claims 4, 6, 28, 30, 44, 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2711

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- 1) Lang - Remote Video Viewing And Recording System For Remotely Occurring Events
- 2) Washing - Personal-Computer-Based Video Production System
- 3) Diner - Adjustable Control Station With Movable Monitors And Cameras For Viewing Systems In Robotics And Teleoperations
- 4) Thompson - Synchronization Of Vertical Phase Of The Video Signals In A Video System
- 5) Cortjens et al. - Method For Automatically Adjusting The Pan And Tilt Of A Video Conferencing System Camera
- 6) Tsujita - Automatic bowling scoring system
- 7) Katz - Videophone system for scrutiny monitoring with computer control
- 8) Thompson - Open loop camera control

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

Art Unit: 2711

(703) 305-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305 - 5399 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner
should be directed to Vivek Srivastava whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 4038. The
examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Andy Faile, can be reached at (703) 305 - 4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 3900.

VS

5/18/02



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PATENT EXAMINER